

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Final Action dated October 24, 2003 and the indication of allowable subject matter. The above amendment and remarks to follow are intended to be fully responsive to the issues presented in that Action.

Claims 42 and 43 were objected to for having improper dependency. Applicant has amended claim 42 to properly depend from independent claim 40.

Claims 40 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefinite claim language. Applicant has reviewed and amended claims 40 and 45 to address the issues raised by the Examiner. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida et al. (Japanese Patent No. 63-309768). Applicant respectfully disagrees because the subject matter of claim 1, where the second washer is installed in the central recess 39 of the reaction plate 4, is not taught or rendered obvious by the prior art.

In Figure 1 of Uchida JP '768, the second guide washer, which is placed in the right side of the spring 27, is not installed in the central recess of the reaction plate 3. The second washer of the torsion washer of Uchida JP '768 is installed outside the central recess of the reaction plate 3. Installation of the second guide washer in the central recess of the reaction plate reduces the axial length of the device.


Because the prior art fails to point out each and every element of the currently claimed invention, the rejection of amended claim 1 based on 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) is improper.

09/744,733
In re HUART, et al.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe additional discussion would advance the prosecution of the instant application, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted:
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